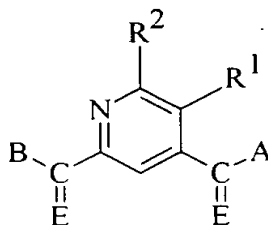


ABSTRACT

Selective MMP-13 inhibitors are pyridine derivatives of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

R¹ and R² independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C₁-C₆ alkyl,

C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, NO₂, NR⁴R⁵, CN, or CF₃;

E is independently O or S;

A and B independently are OR⁴ or NR⁴R⁵;

R⁴ and R⁵ independently are H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl,

(CH₂)_n aryl, (CH₂)_n cycloalkyl, (CH₂)_n heteroaryl, or R⁴ and R⁵ when

taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

n is an integer of from 0 to 6.